

Alabama

Board of Physical Therapy

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LEGAL COUNSEL

STEPHEN N. DODD

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

BOARD STAFF

N. K. HORNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NK.HORNER@PT.ALABAMA.GOV

SHEILA WRIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III

SHEILA.WRIGHT@PT.ALABAMA.GOV

PHONE: (334)242-4064

(334)242-3603

(888)726-9743

NEWSLETTER

WHAT HAS THE BOARD BEEN UP TO?

Your Board has been traveling since the last newsletter! Let me share a bit about some of their travels. The road to office automation has provided the conference room with a laptop computer, wireless projector and screen to facilitate in board meetings and presentations. We are currently investigating Document Management Systems for a virtual filing process for all documents in the office that can be accessed by board members out of the office.

The road to on-line renewals has been really quick and easy with the help of Alabama Interactive. We're sending out renewal notice postcards to remind you it's time to renew for 2006. Remember there is **NO GRACE PERIOD**; your license will expire at midnight on September 30! Read the article about on-line renewals for more information.

The Jurisprudence Exam road was traveled by many of you in the test production itself. Now all new grads are required to take and pass the test to complete their licensure requirements. Read more about it in this issue of the newsletter.

And as you all know, the Board is in the process of charting a new path with the proposed rule change involving a referral conflict of interest. This new road didn't appear overnight; the Board has ad-

dressed questions and complaints concerning this issue on an on-going basis. Please read more in the article to follow concerning this proposed rule change.

Jonathan Westover once made the statement, "*We have a choice: to plow new ground or let the weeds grow.*" Your Board has made the right choice to forge ahead on some new roads and not let grass grow underfoot. And as always, they not only appreciate your comments and concerns, they listen and try to implement what will be in the best interest for the public we serve.

N.K. Horner
Executive Director



Jurisprudence Exam

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is pleased to announce that it has completed its Jurisprudence Exam for all new licensees by examination. We began administering the examination in the spring of 2006 with very good initial (98% pass) results. The board feels confident that this test will help our licensees better understand current laws, rules and regulations that govern safe practice of physical therapy in the state of Alabama and will benefit the public entrusted to their care.

The entire examination was developed with the input of licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants across the state, including practicing clinicians, educators and administrators with countless years of experience. This project afforded us the honor and privilege of working with some of our state's top therapists, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. The board considers this an historical advancement for our profession and evidence of its desire to be proactive in dealing with its licensees.

The board has made every effort to make the examination easily accessible for new applicants seeking to be licensed by providing a seamless method of setting up and taking the test through the FSBPT. The Exam handbook is on our website and can be downloaded and printed for reference. Although passing the test will be required before a license is granted, the board has decided not to limit the number of attempts that individuals may take to complete this requirement. The three times fail restriction for the NPTE will remain unchanged.

Individuals interested in additional information about the exam may contact the board at our web site www.pt.alabama.gov, 100 N. Union Street, Ste. 724, Montgomery, AL 36130, (334) 242-4064 or the FSBPT. We also recommend that perspective licensees acquire a copy of the State of Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Practice Act and the Administrative Code to prepare for the test.

Wiley J. Christian, III, P.T.
Chair, Alabama Board of Physical Therapy



ONLINE RENEWAL IS A REALITY!

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy announces that beginning this renewal period (August 1 – September 30), **ONLINE RENEWAL IS A REALITY!** We listened to suggestions from licensees and decided to move forward with this project. You will now be able to renew online using a credit card. There will be a nominal user fee for processing your renewal, but it will be much easier than the old process. Your continuing education courses will still be subject to a random audit. If you have any questions, you should contact the Board for clarification. Online renewal is the preferred process to renew. However, if you feel that you must still send in a money order, it will be up to the licensee to download the forms from the Board website to send in with your fee and proof of continuing education. The Board would like to encourage **EVERYONE** to take advantage of this new opportunity. Try it . . . you'll like it!

Andy Gustafson, PT



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

WHERE YOU LIVE is just as important as **WHO YOU ARE** to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. State mail is not forwarded; so if we do not have your current address, your mail from the Board will not be delivered to you. Please do keep us informed of your address changes; a few simple key strokes is all it takes on our part to keep you updated in the data base. So keep us in the loop and let us know when you move!

